

**From:** Sierra Club North Carolina Chapter [reply@emails.sierraclub.org]  
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**Subject:** [External] Footnotes Online - March 2018

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Dear Supporter,

Spring is here! Really, it is - never mind that gloomy picture outside your window. As the dogwood and azaleas begin to bloom, Sierra Club groups across the state are stepping up in big ways to engage North Carolinians in seizing the promise of spring and encouraging positive change. You can catch our spring fever! Connect with your local Sierra Club group for outings, education and activism. [Find your local group by checking our county-by-county map](#) - and get fired up with us! Thanks for all you do, Your Staff at the NC Sierra Club



## Offshore drilling opposition gathers more strength

With energetic support by support by Sierra Club coastal and other groups, Hundreds of offshore drilling opponents converged in Raleigh a few weeks ago to show the Trump administration that there is no place for oil and gas drilling off North Carolina's coastline.

Since then, the wave of resistance has only gotten stronger as more North Carolina communities have passed resolutions or made formal statements against offshore drilling. More than 40 counties and municipalities have said NO to drilling off our coastline. The group includes Leland, Calabash, Arapahoe, Shallotte, Hyde County and Currituck County.

The gathering in Raleigh came as the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) held its only public meeting in the state to discuss plans for drilling off U.S. coastlines. The Feb. 26 event was one of a series of BOEM meetings held in coastal states but, like many others, was convened nowhere near the coastline.

So the Sierra Club and our allies brought coastal residents in by the busload. More than 200 people rode together from coastal communities for the hearing and an anti-drilling rally. Many more people from across the state joined them, filling the hotel ballroom to near capacity. Local coastal Sierra Club groups like the Croatan and Cape Fear played a key role in recruiting members, supporters and neighbors to attend.

Michael Regan, secretary of the state Department of Environmental Quality, assured the crowd that he, Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein will resist any effort to allow drilling off North Carolina's coastline.

"Not in our waters. Not off our coast," he said.

[Visit our website to read more about the rally and view a slideshow of the event.](#)

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### **Asheville YES team steps up to climate challenge**

A team of 30 Asheville-area young people are learning more - and sharing their ideas - about how to tackle the problem of climate change.

Members of Youth for Environmental Stewardship (YES) attended the Emerging Climate Leaders Summit, [part of this week's ClimateCon in Asheville.](#)

YES is an initiative that aims to connect students in local high schools and universities as they try to protect and invest in our environment. The group is supported by Greenworks and the Sierra Club's WENOCA Group, with guidance from founder Jamileh Mikati and WENOCA group chair Judy Mattox.

At the summit on Monday, 30 members of YES heard presentations from representatives from NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies, UNC Asheville's National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center, and more.

The professionals explained how to gather, interpret and use climate data and modeling, and encouraged the student group to consider careers in climate-related fields.

In the afternoon, the roles reversed as YES members "pitched" possible climate solutions. Seven group members discussed their ideas before an audience of several hundred ClimateCon attendees and were judged by climate industry professionals.

The event was the most recent of a number of YES projects and accomplishments. Since its formation last year, the group - including students from all nine Buncombe County high schools and several local colleges - has participated in a river clean-up, a road clean-up and invasive plant removal; helped weatherize low-income housing; and held informational meetings and gatherings.

In December, group members helped persuade the Buncombe County Commission to pass a



resolution to work toward 100% renewable energy for county operations by 2030, and for the rest of the county by 2042.

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### **As GenX worries spread, panel tries to answer questions**

Ripples of concern are spreading from Wilmington west across the state with the discovery of a chemical - possibly cancer-causing - in drinking water supplies.

Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club's Headwaters Group, based in Durham, a forum tomorrow night at NC Central University will try to address some of the questions that are swirling around GenX and other "emerging contaminants" - unregulated but potentially dangerous chemicals - in drinking water.

You're invited to attend "What's in Your Water? The Science and Regulation of GenX and Emerging Contaminants," a free, public forum sponsored by the Sierra Club's Headwaters Group, the NCCU Environmental Law Society, and the Durham Environmental Affairs Board.

It's scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday (March 22) at the N.C. Central University Law School ([more details are listed here](#)).

Experts in water quality, regulation and related areas will discuss what communities and residents can do to make sure their drinking water is safe - and what they can ask their local governments and utilities to do if it isn't.

GenX was discharged into the Cape Fear River by the Chemours Company from its factory near Fayetteville. The chemical tainted drinking water supplies for Wilmington and other downstream communities. Recently, scientists found similar substances in drinking water supplies in the Triangle.

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## **Expo celebrates the greening of NE North Carolina**

We've talked about the groundbreaking Amazon Wind Farm near Elizabeth City - but that massive energy project is only one sign that northeastern North Carolina is greening up!

The Sierra Club's Cypress Group, based in Greenville, is helping share the details as a sponsor of the Green Saves Green Expo this Saturday, March 24, at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

Sierrans in the far northeastern area of North Carolina helped organize the expo, stimulated by the efforts of some opponents of renewable energy to shut down the Amazon Wind Farm. The event not only highlights some of the green businesses that are taking off in the region, but how environmentally friendly practices can help consumers save money.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, guests can learn about the work being done in the region by renewable energy companies, recyclers, electric vehicle dealers, nonprofits that promote conservation and green energy, and many more.

The wind farm is involved, of course - van tours of the site will leave from the expo center at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Guests who want to take the tours will be able to sign up at the expo.

The expo itself is free, while wind farm tours will cost \$5 per person. More information about all the vendors and activities is available on [the expo's Facebook event page](#) and on the [Albemarle Resource Conservation and ???Development Council's website](#).

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## **The Sierra Club, Equity, and the Jemez Principles**

As Sierrans, we're dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet. Sounds like a good plan - but are there ways to change it that will make it even better?

With an eye toward keeping our work up-to-date and making it relevant to more communities, the Sierra Club adopted the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing in 2014. Though many local Sierra Club groups might already be following some of the Jemez Principles, most people have

never heard of them.

Briefly, the Jemez Principles are:

- Be inclusive.
- Emphasis on bottom-up organizing.
- Let people speak for themselves.
- Work together in solidarity and mutuality.
- Build just relationships among ourselves.
- Commitment to self-transformation.

Most of the principles are straightforward, but it's the last one - commitment to self-transformation - that can raise an eyebrow. After all, we're on a pretty good path if it's led us to the Sierra Club, right?

Of course the answer is yes. But the self-transformation is more about how we do our work. The Jemez Principles explain: "We must 'walk our talk.' We must be the values that we say we're struggling for, and we must be justice, be peace, be community."

That dedication to self-transformation is the guiding concept behind the [Sierra Club's Equity, Justice and Inclusion initiative](#). The NC Sierra Club has a committee that is helping guide our efforts to "walk our talk" for all North Carolinians.

Allison Chin, former Sierra Club board president and current board member, sees the Jemez Principles taking the Sierra Club to the next level. She explains in a blog post on ["The Planet, Sierra Club Stories from the Front Lines."](#)

For information about the NC Sierra Club's Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Committee, [please contact Dustin Chicurel-Bayard](#).

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## Upcoming Outings and Events

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. To register, contact the group leader(s) or [visit the Outings and Events calendar on our website](#).

**Thursday, March 22, 7:30 PM**

### **What's in Your Water? The Science & Regulation of GenX & Emerging Contaminants**

Headwaters Group

Some eastern North Carolinians have been shaken by the discovery that their drinking water supplies contain GenX, a chemical that is suspected of causing health issues but that at present is not regulated. The human health effects of GenX and other perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are unknown. What are communities and residents supposed to do to



make sure their drinking water is safe? If it isn't safe, what can they ask governments to do to fix the situation? These questions and more will be addressed at this free public forum.

Leader/Organizer: Patricia Carstensen (919) 490-1566 pats1717@hotmail.com

**Friday, March 23, to Sunday, March 25**

**Outings Leader 201 Training**

If you've finished Outings Leader 101 training and led your first hike, join us for an exciting weekend that will include hikes and wilderness first aid as well as the training session.

Leader/Organizer: John Sullivan (919) 847-2109 sullij@att.net

**Saturday, March 24, 2 PM**

**Buggy is Better in Bethania's Black Walnut Bottom Creeks**

Foothills Group

Henry Fansler will lead a fun and informative creek crawl along Bethanias Black Walnut Bottom Trail, which feeds into Muddy Creek. We will be joined by Mindy Mock of the Piedmont Land Conservancy, whose group helped to preserve Walnut Bottoms; Michelle Williams, the historic landscape coordinator for the town of Bethania; and biologist Ana Clara Melo. We will hike the Black Walnut Bottom Trail and see what makes a healthy creek, explore the area bordering the creek, and consider why the Moravians made their second settlement here. After the hike, we will search a creek for macro-invertebrates whose presence will tell us about the water quality. More details of the area can be found at <http://townofbethania.org/trails/black-walnut-bottom-trail/>.

Leader/Organizer: Henry Fansler (336) 473-0282 hbjfansler@windstream.net

**Wednesday, March 28, 6:30 PM**

**Who We Elect Matters! NC's Critical 2018 Election**

Central Piedmont Group

In both Washington D.C. and Raleigh, politicians continue to push an anti-environmental agenda. The Trump administration has been working to overturn longstanding environmental protections. The North Carolina House and Senate are controlled by anti-environmental super-majorities that can override a veto by the Governor. Elections matter and the 2018 election in North Carolina will matter more than ever for the protection of our environment. Ken Brame, the NC Sierra Club's Political Chair and former Sierra Club National Political Co-

Chair, will tell us about this critical opportunity to create change in 2018.

Leader/Organizer: George Pfeffer (704) 652-0925 [gpfeffer@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gpfeffer@carolina.rr.com)

**Saturday, April 7, 1 PM**

**RibbonWalk Nature Preserve Service Outing**

Central Piedmont Group

Invasive plant removal and trash pick-up at this treasure of a preserve not far from uptown Charlotte. Equipment provided but you might want to bring your own work gloves, snack and water. A short hike will follow the work day.

Leader/Organizer: Mary Lou Buck (704) 525-2293 [maryloubuc@aol.com](mailto:maryloubuc@aol.com)

**Saturday, April 14, 11 AM**

**Contemplative Hike and Backpack Lunch**

Central Piedmont Group

Allow yourself to slow down and still your mind. We will hike up the knob on the Blue Ribbon Trail (a moderate, gradual climb). About halfway up, we will begin to walk silently to the rocky top, then each choose a spot and sit in silence briefly to observe nature around us. After lunch and fellowship, we will hike down the loop trail and along the creek, back to cars by 2 p.m. We hope to see trout lilies, blood root, May apple, trillium, Jack-in-the pulpit and other wildflowers.

Leader/Organizer: Mary Lou Buck (704) 525-2293 [maryloubuc@aol.com](mailto:maryloubuc@aol.com)

For further details on each event and to register, [please visit our Outings calendar](#).



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[natural places.](#)

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